

Serial No.: 10/529,186  
Preliminary Amendment

Docket No.: 14.0210-PCT-US

### Remarks

Claims 1-35 were pending.

Claims 11-12, 21-23, 25-28, 35 are currently cancelled. Claims 1, 20, 24 and 29 are currently amended. The claims 1 and 29 are amended to clarify the support cable as the "tension support cable capable of absorbing tension during deployment of the seismic cable." Claims 20 and 24 are amended to make the claims more concise. No new material is introduced.

After this amendment, Claims 1-10, 13-20, 24, 29-34 are pending, of which two claims (1 and 29) are independent claims and a total of 25 claims are present.

It is noted that the pending claims 1-10, 13-19, 29-34 are identical to the claims 1-10, 13-19, and 33-37 respectively in its GB counterpart, which is now a UK patent, GB 2 394 047B, issued on 15 March 2006, from an application number 0223842.6, filed on 12 October, 2002. Claim 20 in current case is equivalent to claims 20-23 in the GB patent; claim 24 in the current application is equivalent to claims 24-28 in the GB patent. A request for participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program between the UKIPO and the USPTO is submitted together with this preliminary amendment.

Applicant believes that the current application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that it be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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